

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 26008 081159Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 HA-05 L-03 H-01 /027 W
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R 081129Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0658
INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CARR, TH
SUBJ: THE MORSE FAMILY

REF CHIANG MAI 340

1. FOLLOWING UPON THE REPORT THAT THE CHIENG MAI POLICE TAD FORWARDED REGARDING THE ILLEGAL FOREST EXPLOITATION CASE AGAINST THE MORSE FAMILY TO BANGKOK (REFTEL), CONSULAR SECTION CHIEF ASKED FOR APPOINTMENT WITH POLICE LT. GENERAL NARONG MAHANOND, DEPUTY DG OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, ON SEPTEMBER 8. CONSUL INDICATED TO GENERAL NARONG OUR INFORMATION THAT ARTICLE 27 OF THE INTERIM CONSTITUTION WAS BEING RECOMMENDED AND ASKED IF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT COULD COMMENT ON THE STATUS OF THE CASE. GENERAL NARONG SMILED WHEN APPRISED OF THE REPORT AND INDICATED THAT THE CASE HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR FOR REVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 5 AS OCCURRED IN ALL LOG POACHING OR ILLEGAL FOREST EXPLOITATION CASES. WHEN ASKED WHEN THE CASE MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO BE RETURNED TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, GENERAL NARONG INDICATED THAT THE NORMAL ELAPSE OF TIME AT THE MINISTRY LEVEL FOR SUCH CASES WAS ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

2. THE DEPUTY DG INDICATED THAT ONLY A RELATIVELY SMALL
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PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER POACHING CASES HAVE RESULTED IN SUMMARY COURT PROCEDURES. THE GENERAL CITED APPROXIMATELY 28 OF THE SOME 220 CASES BROUGHT UP IN THE FIRST 8 MONTHS OF 1978. THE CONSUL WHILE TAKING NOTE OF THAT SMALL PERCENTAGE EXPRESSED THE EMBASSY'S DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE REPORT GIVEN THE WAY THAT THE CASE HAS DEVELOPED THUS FAR.

3. COMMENT: WHILE APPARENTLY NOT WILLING TO CATEGORICALLY DENY THAT ARTICLE 27 WAS BEING CONTEMPLATED, GENERAL NARONG'S REACTION TO THE REPORT WAS THAT THE MORSES' FEARS WERE UNFOUNDED. END COMMENT. GENERAL NARONG REGISTERED THE EMBASSY'S CONCERN AND PROMISED TO KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED OF PROGRESS IN THE CASE. THE EMBASSY HAS THE SAME COMMITMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT. ABRAMOWITZ

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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